



UA 372

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of)

SASOWSKY et al.)

Serial No. 09/776,298)

Filed February 2, 2001)

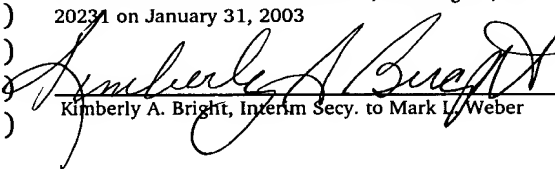
For A METHOD FOR REMOVING
METALS FROM AQUEOUS
SOLUTIONS USING MIXED
LITHIC MATERIALS)

Group Art Unit 1724

C. Barry, Examiner

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence was deposited
with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in
an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
20231 on January 31, 2003


Kimberly A. Bright, Interim Secy. to Mark L. Weber12/13
TW
3-20-03
RECEIVED
FEB 11 2003
TC 1700**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 8, 2002, the Applicants,
through their attorney, respond with the following amendments and remarks.

In the claims:

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9, and 11 as anticipated by Behrends '433. The Examiner contends that Behrends, at column 8, lines 4-11, describes draining acidic mine drainage (AMD) liquid through a bed of river gravel and limestone. The cited section of the Behrends reference is presumably employed to anticipate claims 1-4. The Examiner further holds that the river gravel and limestone taught in Behrends appears to meet the limitations of "large blocks," thereby anticipating claim 6. As to claims 8, 9, and 11, the Examiner holds that the container holding the bed of particles in Behrends is structurally indistinguishable from a "pipe" and that a pump is employed to add AMD to the beds. Claim 6 has been cancelled, and reconsideration of the remaining claims is respectfully requested based upon the arguments presented below.

Having fully considered Behrends and all that it teaches, Applicants